

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 04482 180606Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15
ICA-11 INR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /067 W
-----010818 181956Z /46

R 171115Z MAY 78 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6142
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, JO, US
SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN TO MARRY AMERICAN

REF: AMMAN 4357

1. RUMOR THAT KING HUSSEIN WILL MARRY NAJEEB HALABY'S
26-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER CONFIRMED LATE MAY 16 BY OFFICIAL
GOJ ANNOUNCEMENT. STATEMENT ADDS THAT SIGNING OF
KORANIC CONTRACT AND WEDDING CELEBRATION WILL TAKE PLACE
"SOON" ALTHOUGH PALACE INFORMS US NO DEFINITE DATE
HAS BEEN SET. MS. HALABY IS SAID TO BE FLYING TO PARIS THIS
WEEK WITH KING'S SISTER, PRINCESS BASMAH, TO BY WEDDING GOWN.

2. LISA HALABY, A 1974 ARCHITECTURE GRADUATE OF
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, HAS CHOSEN NUR ("LIGHT") AS
HER ARAB NAME. SHE WILL BE KNOWN AS NUR AL-HUSSEIN
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AFTER HER MARRIAGE. ALTHOUGH HER ARAB ROOTS ARE MENTIONED
IN TODAY'S PRESS STORIES, OUR IMPRESSION SO FAR IS
THAT THEY ARE NOT ACCORDED ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE.

3. NEWS RECEIVED LOCALLY WITH GREAT NONCHALANCE.
MS. HALABY IS VIRTUALLY UN-
KNOWN IN AMMAN; COMMENT ON

KING'S CHOICE THEREFORE LIMITED TO "AH, SO IT'S AN
AMERICAN THIS TIME--WELL, WHY NOT?" JORDANIANS
UNANIMOUSLY EXPECTED KING TO REMARRY FOLLOWING TRAGIC
DEATH FOURTEEN MONTHS AGO OF QUEEN ALIA. ANNOUNCEMENT
THEREFORE CAME AS NO SURPRISE AND IS INDEED PROVOKING
VERY LITTLE LOCAL COMMENT OR CONTROVERSY--MUCH LESS, IN FACT,
THAT WE HAD EXPCTED. WIDESPREAD LOCAL ATTITUDE IS THAT
WHATEVER MAKES KING HAPPY IS OKAY WITH US.
SUDDARTH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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